The Jewish Gaily

FURWARD

Nisan/Ivar 5764

CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV

290 Dolores Street, San Francisco, CA 94103-2262

April 2004

The CSZ Community Retreat is a GO!

Due to an enthusiastic early response, the CSZ Community Retreat is happening, June 4-6 at Walker Creek Ranch in Petaluma. Stay tuned for details on how you can still register for this wonderful weekend of rest, study and community.

New Women's Chavurah

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav's new Women's Chavurah will be meeting on Wednesday, April 14, and on the second Wednesday of each month, from 7-9 pm. The Women's Chavurah will be a monthly forum for women of all ages and interests to connect and relate to one another, explore ideas, tell our stories and form friendships. Please come and bring friends, whether they are members of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, are checking us out or will be coming for the first time.

Jewish Papercuts

Led by Alan Foss Mondays, May 3, 10, 17 and 24, 7 - 9 pm

As a child did you enjoy making those wonderful paper snowflakes? Were you one of those people who made great paper doll chains? If you answered yes to either one of these questions, you need to enroll in the upcoming CSZ art class! Come learn about the wonderful Jewish folk art of papercuts and leave with your own magnificent creations. The class will run for four consecutive Mondays and cover the history of Jewish papercuts, techniques and ideas for developing your own unique designs, and as a culminating project the class will present a student art show at CSZ. Join CSZ member Alan Foss for this four-week class on Jewish art. Cost of class is \$18 for members + \$10 material fee, \$36 for nonmembers + \$10 material fee. To register, please contact Melanie Kushnir (mkushnir@shaarzahav.org or 415/861-6932 x305) no later than Wednesday, April 28.

CSZ First Friday Potluck Shabbat Dinner

April 2, 6:30 pm

Come celebrate the beginning of a joyous Shabbat with other members of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav on the first Friday in April - April 2, 6:30 pm in the oneg room.

Everyone is invited to join us for our second synagogue-wide potluck Shabbat dinner. We encourage you to bring your favorite salads, main courses, side dishes and desserts to share at the Shabbat table. as our community gathers to celebrate the beginning of Shabbat. Shabbat services do not begin until 8:15 pm on the first Friday of the month, so we will have

plenty of time to socialize and enjoy an unhurried meal.

The Kesher Committee is the proud sponsor of this event. We are seeking ways to build connections among the members of the congregation, to bring newer members together with longer-time members to enjoy each others' company and become better acquainted. The more we get to know our fellow members, the stronger our community will be.

If you have questions or plan to attend, please call the synagogue office or Joel (415/503-1877 Springer jspringerIII@msn.com).

Passover News

Passover Food Drive

March 25 - April 5 and April 14 - 31

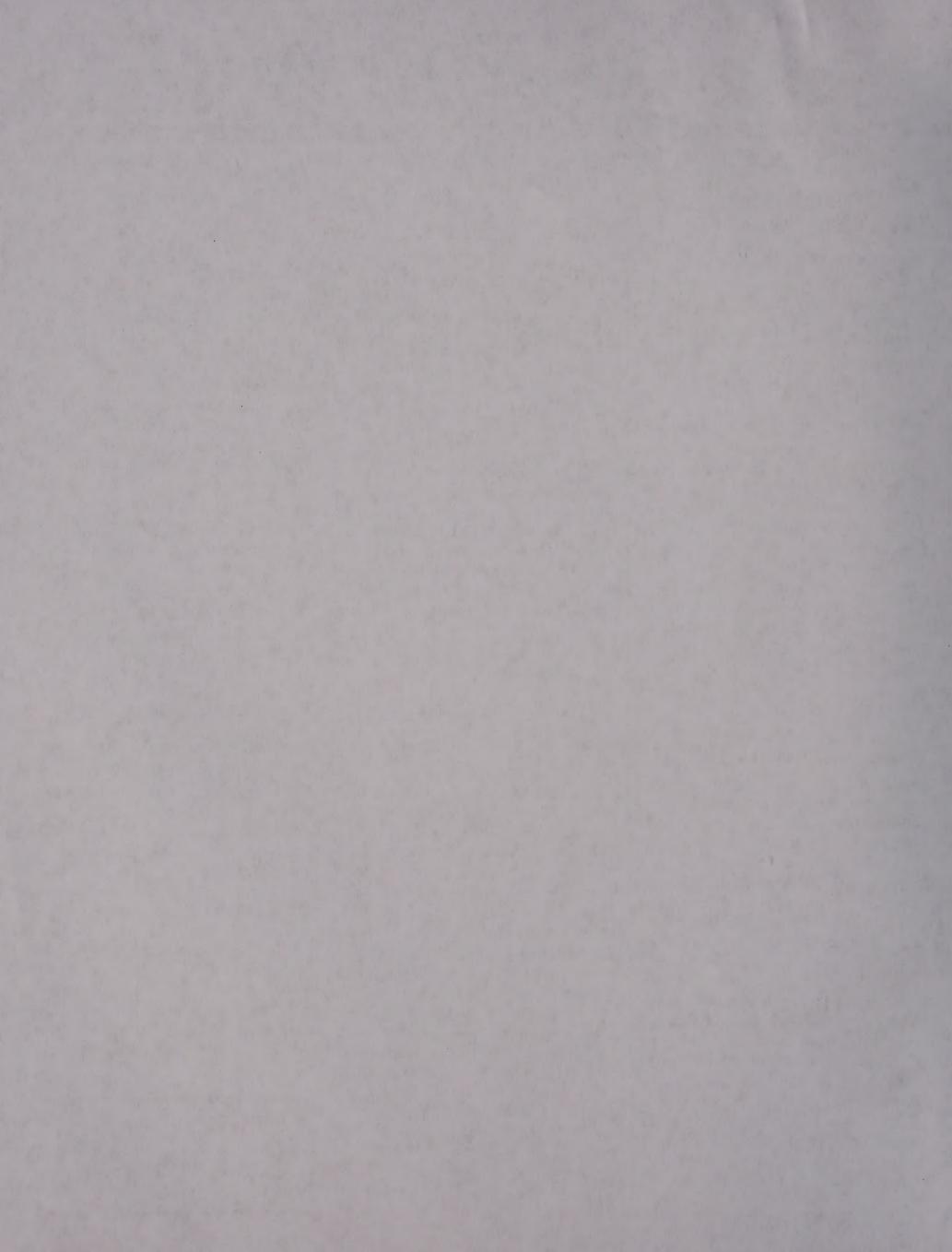
Come join CSZ in performing an easy and very important mitzvah. Bins will be in the lobby for the collection of donations. Please donate whatever you can - even one item is greatly appreciated. It makes a great tikkun olam project for children. Preferred products: canned tuna in water, canned beef stew, canned chili, canned pasta sauce, boxed macaroni and cheese, peanut butter in plastic containers, Gatorade or similar sports drinks in plastic bottles, 100% juice in plastic containers, cans or boxes, supplement bars, soy or rice milk in aseptic packages, canned vegetables, canned fruit in juice, rice in one pound bag or box and dry pasta in a bag or box. For more information, please contact Patricia Lin (510/527-8127 princeucb@aol.com).

Passover Seder Matching

First Seder: Monday, April 5 Second Seder: Tuesday, April 6

Welcoming people into your home is one of the mitzvot of Pesach. This year, please consider inviting a CSZer or two to your seder! If you a have some space at your seder, or are a congregant looking for a seder to attend, please contact Melanie Kushnir (mkushnir@shaarzahav.org or 415/861-6932 x305). Include which seder (first, second or both) that you can host and how many spaces you have available. If you would like to attend a seder, please include which night you are looking to attend. Seder matching is available only for Sha'ar Zahav members.

Yizkor Elohim Ziggy Gimnicher March 8, 1927- February 14, 2004



President's Column

Charoset and Chrain

By Arthur Slepian

The time of year is approaching when, in my household, our thoughts turn to our annual evening of making charoset. It was not always this way - when we first started having a Seder we would often "outsource" the charoset to a guest who might have asked "what can I bring?" But about five years ago, we decided it was time we made the charoset ourselves, because there are so many things about it we love.

We love to shop for the ingredients, selecting the apples and nuts, dates, figs and spices. We love the hands-on preparation: peeling the apples, chopping the dates and raisins. (Have you ever chopped raisins? A food processor can't do it.) And like so many things Jewish, there is no one right way to make charoset. We make one Ashkenazi and one Sephardic version each year, though the recipes change a bit as we read and experiment. We love them both, though by upbringing I lean to the Ashkenazi. Yet truth be told, the Sephardic version is more complex in flavor and texture, and it also stays fresh longer. Lasting longer is important, because we love to eat it, and we make a lot - enough for ourselves and to share with friends through all eight days of Passover. Unlike the miracle of oil at Chanukah, one day's worth of charoset can just not be made to last for eight.

Yet while we love the sweetness of the charoset, our secret is that we love to eat it just as the Seder describes, on matzah with a dollop of horseradish, or chrain as my

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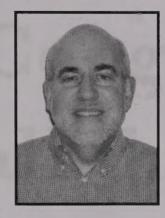
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parents would have called it. The sandwich prescribed by Hillel tastes best to us even in the days following the Seder. Why are we drawn to the complexity of the bittersweet combina-Perhaps

because it is a taste of our lives.

And this year, the combination of the sweet with the bitter seems more relevant than ever. As I write this, more than three thousand same-sex couples (including Gerry and me) have been married here in San Francisco. It was a both a remarkable personal experience, and an amazing step forward for the liberation of our community. Yet at the same time we have a sitting President (and a portion of the country) supporting an amendment to our nation's Constitution that would ensure that gay men and lesbians are denied this fundamental right.

Here in the U.S., Jews continue to break down barriers that have excluded us from full participation in its economic, social and political institutions. This year for the first time there was a Jewish candidate in serious contention for a major party's nomination to the Presidency, and his religion did not seem to be much of an issue. Yet around the world, especially in Europe,

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Trudi Chamoff Hauptman **80 Pinehurst Way** San Francisco, CA 94127 (415) 385-3151 • truhand@aol.com violence against Jews is alarmingly on the rise and anti-Semitism threatens to make a serious comeback. Here at home, a new movie has rekindled the debate over, as Newsweek puts it, "Who really killed Jesus?"

For queer Jews, these are both bittersweet and momentous times. We are twice blessed, and we find ourselves at the intersection of two struggles, each marked at once by both liberation and oppression. This Passover would be a good time to consider the special role that our community should play in each of these struggles. What is the work that we are called on to do to move our peoples closer to freedom? We should recall that as God and Moses led us out of Egypt, Pharaoh's army did not stand idly by. Let us both savor the moment and seize it, as Hillel suggested we do centuries ago. Let the sweetness of the charoset provide the energy and the chrain provide the wake-up call, through our nostrils to our brains, that there is much we need to do. For if not now, when?

The Jewish Gaily Forward

April 2004 Volume 27, Issue 9

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Note that articles reflect the opinions of their author and not necessarily those of the congregation or its committees

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Congratulations to all the Newlyweds!

Congratulations to our congregants who were recently married and received licenses from the City and County of San Francisco!

Lisa DiGirolamo and Janet Klein Stephanie Godt and Ellen Novogrodsky Dan Bellm and Rabbi Yoel Kahn Nina Wouk and Jessie Ap'neva Frank Yellin and Mark Showalter Kirsten Gustavson and Amy Scharf Sue Bojdak and Debra Yates Rabbi Camille Angel and Karen Segal

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Jeff Rubin and Frank Bush Judy Schwartz and Carolyn Pines Gail Ludwig and Clarissa Kripke Ellie Cohen and Miki Goralsky

Steve Polsky and Mark Oliver

If you got married and your name is not on this list, please e-mail Gabby Volodarsky, Rabbi's assistant (gabby@shaarzahav.org) to let her know! We would like to announce it in our next email and JGF.



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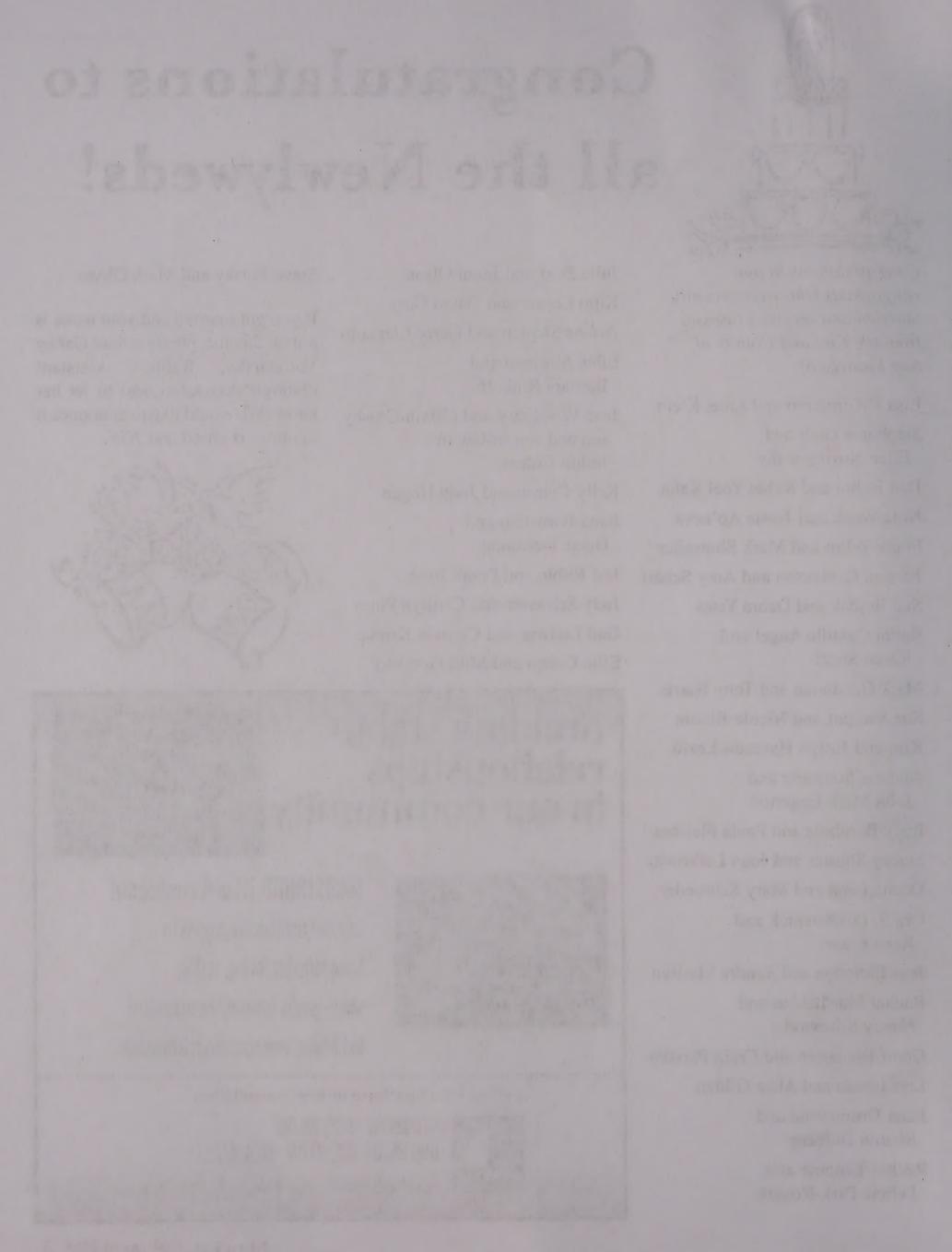
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Children and Family Corner

Baby Chavurah

Sunday, April 11, 10 - noon

Bring those under-twos out to play, sing and commune with like-minded babes and their parents. Join us for potluck brunch, playtime and socializing. This month we meet at the synagogue. Please bring your baby and a vegetarian dish. Older siblings are welcome, as are nonmembers. Baby Chavurah meets the second Sunday of each month.

Family Kabbalat Shabbat

Friday, April 16, 6:15 pm

Meet, eat, sing and celebrate Shabbat with CSZ families and then stay for Friday night services. Families with children of all ages are encouraged to come. Dinner is vegetarian potluck; please bring a dish to share. No RSVP required. Be a part of the ruach (spirit) of our community and invite friends and family to join you. Shabbat Shalom!

Tot Shabbat

Saturday, April 24, 10:30 - 11:30 am

Come celebrate Shabbat with your tot. Bring your 2- to 5-year-olds for singing, prayer, storytelling, crafts and Jewish family fun with Sandra Menachem, Early Childhood Education Specialist. Younger siblings and nonmembers are welcome.

Kadimah Class Spotlight: Kitah Dalet

Once a month, the students of Kitah Dalet can be found on Saturday morning in the hallway between the Rabbi's office and the Education office cutting vegetables. Food is one way in which these 4th and 5th grade students access the experiences of Jewish communities around the world, as they discover that traditional Jewish foods extend beyond latkes and gefilte fish. Through art, stories, film, photos and texts, Kitah Dalet students learn about the diversity of world Jewry, studying communities in China, Ethiopia, North Africa, Eastern Europe, Spain and more. Students learn about differences in Jewish ritual practice. Jewish beliefs and uncover the commonalties that bind us together.

This year Kitah Dalet is connecting person to person with Jewish children from Temple Emanuel in Woollahra Sydney, Australia. Through the internet, Kitah Dalet teacher Rachel Billow connected with Emanuel Education Director Bryan Conyar and together they matched up their students as penpals. The kids have been in contact through snail mail, sharing a bit about themselves, their families and their Jewish communities. This is one way to bring our kids in touch with the world Jewish community.

On Wednesday afternoons, the studies of Kitah Dalet students turn to Hebrew and

T'fillah (prayer) with teacher Rachel Timoner. Students are improving basic reading skills, while being introduced to Hebrew grammar and beginning to learn key elements of the service.

The Amazing Pesach Race

Sunday, April 3, 9:30 - noon

The race for freedom is on! We will be racing to rid our shul of chametz (things that are leavened), encountering challenging roadblocks and piecing together our people's liberation. While we prepare for a week of matzah, we share our bread with those less fortunate. Kadimah will kick off the CSZ food drive when you bring foodstuffs to put in the SF Food Bank bins that will be in the lobby during Pesach. (See Food Bank article for details on what to bring.) This is a program for Kadimah families and other CSZ families with kids aged 5 and older. Bring your family and bring your running shoes.

> There is no Kadimah on April 7, April 10, and April 13.

Contact Sue Bojdak, Director of Family and Children's Education, (415/861-6932 x302 or educator@shaarzahav.org) for more information about any of these programs or to RSVP.



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February Scholar-in-Residence Weekend With Rabbi Benay Lappe

By Andrew Ramer

All the pews are pushed back against the walls, and the sanctuary is filled with folding tables and folding chairs, circling the bimah. Very different from how it looks on Shabbat. Sixty of us are engaged in Talmud study, talking in small groups, reading Rabbi Lappe's English translations of the text, as she talks from the bimah, and moves around the room in her sparkling kipah, listening, inquiring, offering insights, during her second visit to Sha'ar Zahav as our Scholar-in-Residence.

"There are more people in this room," she said at one point, "than there were rabbis who first created the Talmud." What we are doing is, in Rabbi Lappe's words, a shared journey of "traditional radicals." We're immersing ourselves in the culture of our ancestors, as if the texts were a mikveh, and we're using our new knowledge to extend traditional halakhah, Jewish law, to include ourselves as well, 21st century Jews, all of whom are gueer, different, although not all of us are LGBT.

We studied texts on forbidden sexual relationships and on people born from them, and saw how the rabbis worked their way around the Torah's restrictions so that those people could live full lives. Rabbi Lappe helped us see that the problems facing our full inclusion in the Jewish community were "solved two thousand years ago." Those ancient solutions just haven't been extended to us yet.

We came to the weekend from many different places, which we discussed at several points during the weekend. Rabbi Angel asked Rabbi Lappe why studying Talmud matters to anyone who

comes from a Reform background, where traditional Jewish law isn't the final word. Rabbi Lappe's answer was multi-faceted. We study because Talmud is part of our cultural heritage. It helps us understand how we got here. We study because there are queer Jews who still live in a world of halakhah, who are looking for ways to live full lives. We study for the joy of studying together as Jews. We study to deepen our connection to our own inner source of guidance, our svara, our "insightful reasoning," a faculty that the rabbis of old said came from study, engagement in community and from God.

We met in the midst of our city's extending the rights of marriage to same-sex couples. We saw the ways in which laws can change. And, fortified by great food and even better conversation, we filled the sanctuary with our energy and enthusiasm for learning with an inspiring rabbi who's named her Chicago queer yeshiva Svara. Her passion – to help us know that we are part of the People of Israel, engaged in the work of tikkun olam, repair of the world.

An Introduction to the Kabbalistic Tree of Life

Led by Andrew Ramer Wednesday, June 2, 7 – 9 pm

The Tree of Life has long been a metaphor for the Torah, but in Jewish mysticism this image developed into a map for how a nonphysical God could create a physical universe. In this class we will study the history of the Tree and learn about the ten spheres, sephirot, which represent the unfolding aspects of God's creative power. Then we will learn a Kabbalistic meditation that links the Tree and its energies to our bodies and our lives. This meditation will give us access to our inner wisdom and help us establish con-

crete goals in our lives and as participants in the work of tikkun olam (repairing the world). This class is free for CSZ members, \$18 for nonmembers.

To RSVP, please contact Melanie Kushnir at (mkushnir@shaarzahav.org 415/861-6932 x305) no later than May Wednesday,

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Social Action Connection



by Susan Lubeck, co-chair

NCLR Gala April 24

Once again, we LGBT folk are in the news, with groundbreaking developments relating to our rights. These gains are due in part to organizations like the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR). Come on out and laugh a little, cry a little, and do some serious people watching while supporting this terrific nonprofit. Tickets are \$200 per person, but you can attend for \$25 or so as a volunteer, which is easy and fun. To join a Sha'ar Zahav table or help sponsor one, contact Lonnie Weiss (415/255-1641 or i.weiss@comcast.net). To volunteer, contact Dena Zaldua of NCLR (Zaldua@NCLRights.org or 415/392-NCLR).

Rebuilding Together April 25

Join with other Sha'ar Zahavniks for one of our most popular service opportunities. Over the course of a Sunday you will help renovate the home of a low-income, elderly or disabled San Franciscan or a nonprofit facility. For more information, contact Laura Lowe (llowesf@earthlink.net).

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Please Be in Touch With Me

I am eager to be in touch with all members of the CSZ family whenever there are occasions of joy or sadness in your lives. Where there is a death in the family, please call me as soon as possible. We very much want to be there with you at a time of grief.

Rabbi Camille Shira Angel

IN BRIEF:

Passover Food Drive, March 25 - April 5 and **April 14 - 31**

Share food, even one item, with hungry neighbors during the season of freedom. Bins will be in the lobby for the collection of donations. Contact Patricia Lin (510/527-8127 or princeucb@aol.com).

• Bisexual Panel, May 1, 6:30 pm Contact AJ Turpen (ajsparkles@mac.com).

• Every Wednesday

Dinner with homeless neighbors at Most Holy Redeemer at 18th and Diamond in the Castro. Arrive any time between 4 and 9 pm and look for Larry Wong of Sha'ar Zahav (masdvorchid@yahoo.com) or Ron, the volunteer coordinator. You will be warmly welcomed!



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- in honor of Drew Parker-Rose and his

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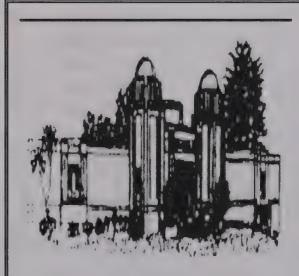
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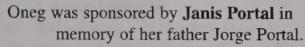
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Phyllis and George Mintzer in
memory of Zelda Wasserman,
Sarah Weinberger and Lillian
Meyer.

Friday night bimah flowers sponsored by Gabby Volodarsky and Steven Angelides in appreciation of Lisa Szer and her donation of telephone headsets.

Bimah flowers were sponsored by the Halloran-Couch Family in honor of Charlotte Rivka Halloran-Couch becoming bat mitzvah.

Oneg was sponsored by the Halloran-Couch Family in honor of Charlotte Rivka Halloran-Couch becoming bat mitzvah.

2/20

Bimah flowers were sponsored by the Holiber and Warsaw Family in memory of their mother and grandmother, Caryl Lois Holiber.

Oneg was sponsored by Lyssa Friedman,
Daphne Stuart and Anna StuartFriedman in honor of their first
year of becoming a family.

Oneg was sponsored by **The Queer Torah Study Group** in honor of
Rabbi Benay Lappe.

Friday night childcare was sponsored by **Ron Edelman** in memory of his good friend Tom Mapp.

2/27

Bimah flowers were sponsored by Rose Anne Donner Colt in memory of Isaac Donner.

Oneg was sponsored by Karen Golinski and Amy Cunninghis in honor of the naming of their son, Daniel Caleb Golinski.

Friday night childcare was sponsored by **James Carlson** in memory of Pearl Funk.

Saturday oneg was sponsored by Alan

Foss and Lisa Szer in honor of the
staff and volunteers of the Rabbi
Benay Lappe weekend.

Naches

Rachel Timoner and
Joe Hample on their
acceptance into the Rabbinical
Program at Hebrew Union College.

Drew Parker-Rose on his new position at GuideWire Software, where he will be in charge of customer service.

Barbara Cymrot-Wu, Trudi Hauptman and Jeanette Nichols for having their artwork featured in the "Divine Image: Artists Confronting the Second Commandment" exhibit at the Jewish Community Library.

Bob Katz and John Brouillette on the purchase of their new home.

Dr. Steven Wiesner who received the Fammy Award from Jewish Family and Children's Services for his many years of volunteering with JFCS's AIDS and LGBT Projects.

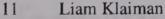
Charlotte Halloran-Couch on becoming a bat mitzvah.

Amy Cunninghis and Karen Golinski on the naming of Daniel Caleb Golinski.

Lynn Eden on the publication of her book, Whole World on Fire:
Organizations, Knowledge, and
Nuclear Weapons Devastation, by
Cornell University Press.

Birthdays

- 1 Merle Malakoff
- 2 Jeremy Saz
- 2 Eliana Chalmers Frank
- 3 Eric Geffner
- 3 Quinn Klaiman
- 5 Adam Levine
- 5 Heather Fox
- 5 Jerome Goldstein
- 6 Edward Schultz
- 7 Lawrence Best
- 7 Eli Agre Baum
- 7 Jacob McConnell
- 7 Robert Schwartz
- 7 Anya Prussin
- 7 Judy Macks
- 8 Anna Katz
- 9 Eli Barnes
- 9 Emily Newfield
- 10 Glen Hauer



- 11 Sydney Klaiman
- 11 Johanna Klaiman
- 11 Caryn Aviv
- 12 Zoe Kapsack
- 12 Devra Felder Noily
- 12 Susan Leff
- 12 Asher Kapsack
- 13 Bonnie Kates
- 13 Avidan Rene Novogrodsky-Godt
- 14 Lyssa Friedman
- 14 Barbara Braasch
- 14 Marjorie Hilsenrad
- 16 Robert Gordon
- Juliet Neidish
- 16 Peter Barnes
- 16 Jeanette Nichols
- 16 Susan Borowitz
- 17 Shawna Blackman
- 17 Diana Buchbinder
- 17 Frank Sieple
- 18 Donald Fischer
- 18 Naomi Szoke
- 19 Martin Spector
- 20 Aaron Nacamulli
- 20 Helen Cohen
- 20 Jessica Goldstein
- 22 Lisa Szer
- 23 Joshua Muller
- 23 Sara Haber
- 23 Lyn Stein
- 24 Evan Puckett
- 24 Karen Schiller
- 25 Brian Ellis
- 25 Brian Ellis
- 26 Andre Fournier
- 27 Adam Barrett
- 27 Victoria Weiser
- 30 Lynn Eden

Condolences

Tova Green, on the death of her father, Alexander Schwartz.

Gregory Ramos, on the death of his uncle, Paul Joseph Pakin.

Jonathan Funk, on the death of his mother, Pearl Funk.

Reuben Zellman, on the death of his grandmother, Celia Zellman.

Alan Foss, on the death of his cousin, Carol Adams.

Lonnie Weiss, on the death of her friend, Al Tenenbaum.

Anniversaries

- 4 Lucy Bernholz and Paula Fleisher
- 10 Carolyn Pines and Judy Schwartz
- Arthur Slepian and Gerry Llamado
- Rena Frantz and Ora Prochovnick
- 29 Barbara Leff and Arlene Singer
- 30 Nicole Bloom and Sue Swigart

Yahrzeits

- Adam Harris
- 2 Ronald Gertz
- 3 Abraham Cohen
- 6 Dennis Mitchell
- 21 Robert Sterman
- 23 Michael Randall
- Norma Faini-Pick

Classifieds

PSYCHOTHERAPY:

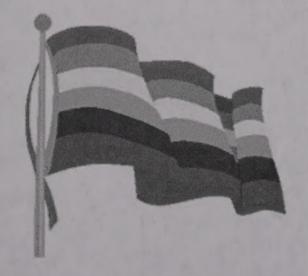
A safe place to talk about life transition, relationship turmoil, emotional upheaval, existential crises... or simple, everyday concerns. Jody Reiss, LCSW (#15289). 415/401-9482

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Synagogue Information

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

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Phyllis Mintzer

Rabbi's Assistant

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cszpres@pacbell.net

Vice President, Rose Katz

Vice President, Alex Ingersoll

Treasurer, Karen Schiller

Recorder, Drew Parker-Rose

Va'ad Members

Lisa Katz (ex officio)

Marianne Balin

Barbara Cymrot

Ron Edelman

Tony Harris

Leslie Kane

Gail Ludwig

Ron Miguel

Rachel Timoner

Marc Wernick

Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair are invited to obtain his or her number from the synagogue office.

Member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Jews

Committee Chairs

Adult Education, Ron Edelman and

Joss Eldredge

Baby Chavurah, by committee

Bequests and Donations, open

Bikkur Cholim, open

Book Group, Mark Mackler

Building and Grounds, Beth Sousa

Bylaws, Howard Steiermann

Children's Education Board, Howard Herman

Cemetery, Open

Dues, Tiela Chalmers

East Bay Chavurah, Ida Kuluk and

Larry Wexler

Endowment Fund, David Stein

Experiment in Congregational Education,

Dan Bellm

Finance, Karen Schiller

Fine Arts, Barbara Cymrot

Fund Development, Marianne Balin and

Tony Harris

Gift Shop, Jeff Rubin

Israel Committee, Miki Goralsky and

Steve Mazer

Kesher/Connection, Kelly Cytron and

Leadership Development, Diana Buchbinder

Library, Bernard Schertzer

Long-Range Planning, Claudia Bernard and

Geoff Benjamin

Membership Outreach, Geoff Benjamin

Newsletter, Prudence Carter

• pruc@sbcglobal.net

Outreach, Prudence Carter

Past Presidents' Council, David Gellman

Personnel, Jeff Sherman

Public Relations, Marc Wernick

Rabbi Liaison, Ora Prochovnick

Ritual, Steve Weitz

Social Action, Susan Lubeck and Sara Haber

UAHC National Liaison, Mike Rankin

UAHC Regional Liaison, Daniel Chesir

WCGLBJO Liaison, David Gellman

Web and I.T., Drew Parker-Rose

Bikkur Cholim: If you or a friend who is a member of Sha'ar Zahav is ill in the hospital or at home, and would like to have a member of the Bikkur Cholim Committee call or visit, please notify the synagogue office.

Sponsor an Oneg Shabbat!

Sponsoring the oneg Shabbat following services is a lovely and generous way to commemorate a special occasion. Please call the CSZ office for more information.